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CITY of BEAVERTON

NEWS RELEASE

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BEAVERTON URBAN REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY RECEIVES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM EPA

- Program to focus on innovative water quality solutions in downtown Beaverton -

BEAVERTON, Ore. — The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that Beaverton is one of 43 communities nationwide who will receive technical assistance from the Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities program. The Beaverton Urban Redevelopment Agency (BURA) will use the EPA assistance to identify and implement innovative streetscape and urban development strategies for Beaverton Creek.

The EPA program provides tools to help communities achieve their development goals, improve the quality of life, and become more economically and environmentally sustainable.

“Protecting our water quality is important to our residents,” said Mayor Denny Doyle. “Receiving technical assistance from the EPA will improve Beaverton Creek and help with our challenges with urban stormwater runoff.”

EPA staff and national consultants will join the BURA and city staff on a tour of the area and will conduct a one to two day technical workshop. The workshops will identify how to incorporate green infrastructure techniques into specific projects in the urban renewal plan, with a focus on the creek system.

“When voters approved the \$150 million urban renewal plan in 2011, they signaled a desire to implement the Beaverton Community Vision and Civic Plan in downtown,” said Jerry Jones, Jr., BURA chair. “This assistance will help us better manage stormwater impacts to Beaverton Creek through groundbreaking approaches.”

Building Blocks will also complement Beaverton’s work to transform an area known as the Creekside District into a vibrant, sustainable, mixed-use area with creek restoration, increased mobility, affordable housing, and transit-oriented development, funded in part through a \$1 million HUD Sustainable Communities Challenge grant.

For more information please contact, Barbara Fryer at 503-526-3718 or bfryer@BeavertonOregon.gov. For more information on the Building Blocks Program, visit <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/buildingblocks.htm>.

BURA is responsible for urban redevelopment and renewal activities within Beaverton. The BURA's mission is to revitalize underperforming areas in Central Beaverton through grants and tax increment financing. For more information, visit www.BeavertonOregon.gov/BURA.

Beaverton enjoys one of the most diverse populations among Oregon cities. Most recently, the city was awarded the **2012 Mayors' Climate Protection Award** from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. It was one of just four cities of its size recently recognized as a "**Smarter City**" **energy leader by the Natural Resources Defense Council** and **one of the 100 Best Places to Live in America** by *Money* magazine. In addition, Beaverton has been named **one of the safest cities in the Pacific Northwest** for three consecutive years, as one of the **best places to raise kids** by *BusinessWeek* magazine, an **All-America City finalist**, as **one of the top 25 Suburbs for Retirement** by *Forbes.com*, **one of the 100 Best Walking Cities in America** by *Prevention* magazine, the **Recycler of the Year** from the Association of Oregon Recyclers, a **Tree City USA** by the Arbor Day Foundation, a **Bronze Award Bicycle Friendly Community** designation by the League of American Bicyclists and as one of the Environmental Protection Agency's **Green Power Communities**, the Beaverton Community Vision program was named **Public Involvement Project of the Year—Best Planning Project** by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Cascade Chapter. For more information, please visit www.BeavertonOregon.gov or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton.

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